(b) whether the feasibility report circulated to basin states in regard to the water transfer of Achankoil Pamba rivers have been responded so far by the concerned basin states ;

(c) if so, what feed back has been received from the State Governments concerned; and

(d) what steps are taken by Government to implement the project of diversion of Achankoil-Pamba rivers to Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATR RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUGON) : (a) A total of 17 water transfer links have been identified under the Peninsular component of the National Perspective for water resources development. Preliminary feasibility reports of 13 links have been completed by the National Water Development Agency.

(b) and (c) The preliminary feasibility report of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai link was sent to the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for their comments/suggestions. Whereas no comments have been received from Government of Kerala on the Project Report, the State Government has indicated their apprehensions about adverse environmental impact on Vembanad Lake and informed that they have assigned the study of entire river system connected with Vembanad Lake to the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (C.W.R.D.M.), Kozhikode. In the comments received from Government of Tamil Nadu, the State Government has suggested, among other things, transfering more water from the Kerala rivers and some design modifications in the Link Canal to Command additional area.

(d) A sub-committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with Secretaries of the concerned State Governments as Members to facilitate survey and investigation and consensus among concerned States. The subcommittee held its meeting on 10th August, 1993 and suggested that in order to maintain or even improve the existing conditions in the project area, National Water Development Agency should take up, in consultaion with concerned State Governments, various alternative studies taking into account regional socio-economic and environmental balances into consideration.

Receding Ground Water Level of Delhi

1772. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level of Delhi is receding to more than 70 feet underground ;

(b) whether this drop in the ground water level is due to the fact that the rainwater during the monsoons is allowed to flow into the Yamuna through canals instead of being stored; and

(c) If so, whether Government have taken any steps for the storage of rainwater in ponds etc. which would increase the ground water level and add to the fertility of the soil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) As per the premonsoon observations made by the Central Ground Water Board in May, 1993 through its hydrograph stations, ground water was generally available in Delhi at a depth ranging from 1.71 mts. to 15.00 mts except at Ghitorni, Bhati and Maksudpur in Mehrauli block where the ground water level was at a depth of more than 21.34 mts (70 ft.).

(b) The fall in ground water level is mainly attributed to heavy withdrawals of ground water in Delhi.

(c) The Central Ground Water Board has initiated action on an Artificial Recharge Project in Union Territory of Delhi.

Existing Shortage of Drinking Water supply in Delhi

1773. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the exiting shortage of drinking water supply in Delhi both in the Summer and Winter months as against the demand ;

(b) what is the percentage of rise in the demand of drinking water in Delhi in 1993 as against the demand in 1992;